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INTENTION TO CONTINUE WITH BEAGLE TALKS CONFIRMED

PY192044 Buenos Aires LA NACION in Spanish 19 Feb 82 p 1

[Text] Argentina, through Ambassador Carlos Ortiz de Rozas, has confirmed to the Vatican its intention not to withdraw from the papal mediation to find a solution to the conflict with Chile in the Beagle zone. Ortiz de Rozas, the new head of the Argentine negotiating group involved in the mediation, expressed our country's intention to the mediator's representative, Cardinal Antonio Samore, during their first meeting held in the Vatican yesterday. According to a report from Chile, Enrique Bernstein, special Chilean ambassador to the mediation, has revealed that he held a meeting with Samore the day before yesterday. According to the Chilean diplomat, Samore reportedly reiterated to him that the pope's proposal for solving the border conflict "is unalterable," although there are some points in the proposal which "must be determined."

CGT ISSUES COMMUNIQUE ON BOARD MEETING

PY200142 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1522 GMT 19 Feb 82

[Text] Buenos Aires, 19 Feb (NA) -- A few minutes ago the CGT issued the following communique: "Under the leadership of the Executive Council, the plenum of the CGT regional delegation met today with the participation of the following delegations: Rosario, San Luis, Avellaneda, Lomas de Zamora, Quilmes, Zone Norte, Parana, Concordia, Concepcion del Uruguay, Santa Fe, Jujuy, Cordoba, Mendoza, Corrientes, San Martin, Rio Cuarto, Tucuman, Salta, La Matanza, Moron, Tandil, Mar del Plata, Balcarce, Azul, Villa Gessell, Bahia Blanca, Campana, Zarate, San Juan, San Rafael, La Plata, and the Jose Ignacio Rucci group of San Nicolas. During the meeting the Executive Council report and the mobilization plan okayed by the Executive Council were approved, and suggestions were gathered for the second stage of the mobilization plan which will be reviewed by the Executive Council as developments warrant. In accordance with what has been approved, the regional delegations will adjust their actions to provisions in the mobilization plan, ratifying their adherence to and support for the CGT Executive Council."

LABOR LEADERS STUDYING CURRENT SITUATION

PY171542 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1452 GMT 17 Feb 82

[Text] Buenos Aires, 17 Feb (NA) -- Representatives of 20 unions that are members of the independent sector of the National Labor Commission (CNT) have begun to analyze "the country's economic, social and political situation" and the labor situation "in the light of the positions of the various sectors that make up the labor movement." Juan Horvath (state workers), Ramon Baldassini (telegraph and postal workers) and Enrique Venturini (naval electricians), among other leaders, are participating in the meeting, which is taking place at the headquarters of the Naval Electricians Union.

POLICE DENY ATTACK AGAINST ONGANIA'S HOUSE

PY191753 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1607 GMT 19 Feb 82

[Text] La Plata, 19 Feb (TELAM) -- At noon today the Buenos Aires police denied that the residence of former President Lt Gen Juan Carlos Ongania had been the target of an attack. A communique in this regard reads as follows: In view of press reports, the police of Buenos Aires Province make it known that no attack occurred against the residence of former president of the nation Lt Gen Juan Carlos Ongania, which, because of its location, is within the jurisdiction of this police department.

AGREEMENT REACHED: WORKERS END HUNGER STRIKE

PY181530 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 0334 GMT 18 Feb 82

[Excerpts] La Paz, 17 Feb (LATIN-REUTER) -- This evening 10 factory workers lifted a hunger strike after reaching an agreement with the government on how the negotiations aimed at obtaining a salary increase would be conducted. According to labor union and Labor Ministry spokesmen, the grassroots committees of the factory sector and the Labor Ministry, through Minister Guido Suarez, this evening reached an agreement which ended the fast started by factory union leaders.

Factory authorities and workers' representatives this evening agreed to form a tripartite commission with a representative of the Labor Ministry and a church representative in order to start overall negotiations, at a district level, tomorrow. This means that in each department (province) of the republic the workers will negotiate with the departmental chamber of industries. In principle the government ordered that the workers of each enterprise to negotiate with their employers the salary increase following the monetary devaluation which increased the cost of living. The tripartite commission will start its work tomorrow and the Labor Ministry will endorse the agreements reached by the two parties.

CHURCH CALLS FOR 'FRANK DIALOGUE' WITH WORKERS

PY191810 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1322 GMT 17 Feb 82

[Excerpt] La Paz, 17 Feb (TELAM) -- The permanent secretary of the Bolivian Episcopal Conference, Msgr Alejandro Mestre, has urged the government, businessmen and workers to maintain a frank dialogue regarding salary demands in order to overcome the problems that stem from the implementation of the economic measures. He indicated that the dialogue is necessary in order to justify the demands of the labor sector and he repeated that the devaluation has provoked a rise in the cost of living and in prices and therefore, to solve the problem, the government must order an increase in the basic salaries in every sector. Mestre has said that if the businessmen do not want to give in to the workers demands, then the government must impose its power, because the worker has the right to support his family and to a just salary.

COB LEADERS CRITICIZE ECONOMIC MEASURES

PY181517 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 1947 GMT 17 Feb 82

[Text] La Paz, 17 Feb (LATIN-REUTER) -- The proscribed Bolivian Labor Federation [COB] today harshly criticized the economic measures adopted by the military government and indicated that there were no guarantees of price stability. An analysis of the economic situation was published in this capital by the morning newspaper HOY. From their hideout, the COB leaders attributed the current financial situation in the country to the 17 years of military government. The COB document, signed by Gonzalo Guzman and Victor Lima, among others, adds: These 17 years of government have deepened the contradictions of a capitalism which depends on our crippled economy and have caused the critical situation, unprecedented in our history. It adds that the moral crisis which has progressively characterized the 17 years of military government, led to the seizure of power in July 1980 by a sector devoted to shady interests. The document also accuses the regime of Gen Celso Torrelío Villa of unloading again on the workers' shoulders the burden of the cost of the crisis. It stresses that the government has not explained how it will be different from the previous government when, in our daily lives, the workers continue to see an ostentatious and luxurious consumption of goods and services by privileged sectors, a situation totally contrasting with the generalized poverty of the great majority of the people.

Referring to the economic administration of the military governments, it adds: They acted in a criminally irresponsible manner, especially if we remember that governments such as that of Hugo Banzer had unprecedented special resources resulting from the favorable position of our export prices; not to mention the tripling of our foreign debt. It also charges the government of General Torrelío Villa with being incapable of adopting a number of coherent measures aimed at alleviating the crisis. It adds that the consumer price index in the 1960's showed an increase of 24.53 percent, 533.15 percent in the 1970's and in 1981 it reached 802.62 percent. The COB leaders also noted that in 1979 the average salary could only barely cover 46 percent of family expenses. They added that the monetary devaluation decreed by General Torrelío Villa has been fixed at about 80 percent, while the salary increase reaches only 17 percent. The document also states that "The establishment of staple prices is not in keeping with the producers' demands, which means that until real prices are set, there will always be a shortage of products due to the practice of hoarding." It added that the economic measures "show the irresponsible nature of government officials, because the implementation of these measures has no financial support. This means that not even the government will be able to guarantee the stabilization of prices."

GOVERNMENT LIFTS CURFEW DURING CARNIVAL

PY191902 La Paz Radio Illimani Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 19 Feb 82

[Excerpts] Interior Minister Romulo Mercado Garnica reported today that the Bolivian Government has decided that, as of Saturday, the curfew will be lifted during the carnival period. He also called on all citizens to avoid creating disorders.

Asked about an appeal made in Lima by Hernan Siles Zuazo, Colonel Mercado noted that political parties are in recess. [Recorded passage indistinct] He also noted that former leader Filemon Escobar has requested the proper authorization to leave the country because of his poor health.

SILES ASKS POLITICIANS TO UNITE AGAINST GOVERNMENT

PY192038 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 0307 GMT 17 Feb 82

[Text] La Paz, 16 Feb (LATIN-REUTER) -- Former President Hernan Siles Zuazo tonight called on several former presidential candidates to demand that the Bolivian Armed Forces refrain from performing other than their specific constitutional task and that elections be called immediately in Bolivia. Siles sent a telegram to this effect from Lima to former Presidents Victor Paz Estenssoro, Walter Guevara Arce, Luis Adolfo Siles Salinas and to political leaders Juan Lechin Oquendo, Guillermo Bedregal and Jose Maria Palacios. All these persons had run as presidential candidates in the elections held in July 1980, the results of which were invalidated by the 17 July 1980 coup which brought Gen Luis Garcia Meza to power.

In his telegram former President Siles did not mention former President Hugo Banzer Suarez, who had also run for the presidency on that occasion. Siles (1956-1960) [as published] and leader of the Popular Democratic Union Front stated in the telegram that the 17 July coup had frustrated the electoral process and he asserted: At that time we were unaware of the extent of the involvement of the military cliques in drug trafficking and of the paramilitary repression which brought about the largest political, institutional, economic, social and moral crisis that we Bolivians can remember.

He stated: Concerned over the helplessness of our people who are being more and more humiliated and impoverished....I beg you to put behind our differences in order to make the maximum joint effort.

Siles pointed out that the action would aim at demanding, on behalf of the nation, that the armed forces strictly refrain from performing any but their constitutional mission, in order to restore the democratic liberties and to call immediate general elections. In closing his telegram, Siles said: I believe there is an imperative need to draw up a basic program to provide for the defense of the national and popular economy in order to safeguard our sovereignty and international prestige, thus to ensure the peaceful transition from a dictatorship to the democracy that Bolivia needs. Former Presidents Victor Paz Estenssoro and Luis Adolfo Siles Salinas, and leader Guillermo Bedregal, who are currently living in Bolivia, did not give an immediate reply to Siles' telegram.

PAZ ESTENSSORO CONCURS IN NEED FOR JOINT ACTION

FY201605 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1415 GMT 19 Feb 82

[Excerpts] La Paz, 19 Feb (TELAM) -- Former President Victor Paz Estenssoro, current leader of the National Revolutionary Movement (MNR), today answered the call by Hernan Siles Zuazo, leader of the People's Democratic Union (UDP), for former presidential candidates to lay their differences aside and jointly demand the holding of general elections as well as to draw up a basic program to provide for defending the national economy and safeguarding national sovereignty.

In his message addressed to former President Hernan Siles Zuazo, currently living in exile in Lima, Paz Estenssoro says that he agrees that the armed forces should resume their specific tasks and that the citizenry should exercise its right to choose those who govern it. He then states that it is obvious that joint action is necessary but that it should involve all the groups which took part in the last elections, without any exclusions, so that it may be effective. It would represent an agreement of national salvation in which the parties, without losing their identities, would act jointly in view of the serious situation which the country is experiencing, he stated.

He then stated that although it is true that some military men have been involved in drug trafficking and repression, one cannot charge the entire armed forces. It is with the armed forces that the necessary negotiations must be carried out employing realistic criteria. In referring to the economic measures decreed by the government he stated that the priority task of the political groups, which have a commitment to the people is that of assuming the people's defense by preventing the greater sacrifice demanded of the groups having lower income.

More on Response

FY201608 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 1821 GMT 19 Feb 82

[Excerpts] La Paz, 19 Feb (LATIN-REUTER) -- Former Bolivian President Victor Paz Estenssoro agreed with Hernan Siles Zuazo, who is also a former president, that the armed forces should withdraw from power and resume its specific tasks. Paz Estenssoro's (1952-56 and 1960-64) position was stated in an answer to Siles Zuazo's (1956-60) call on several former presidential candidates who ran in the aborted elections in 1980.

In his message Paz Estenssoro disagreed with the suggestion that an immediate call for general elections be made by pointing out that prior to this a series of "indispensable" steps which require an "exhaustive preparation" must be taken so that the elections can be correct and definitive.

Paz Estenssoro's answer was the only one made public, although the Christian Democratic Party, through its leader Benjamin Miguel, maintained that Siles Zuazo's position fully coincides with that of his party. He added that the Christian Democratic Party had called on all the political parties, workers, businessmen and the armed forces to form a grand national accord to pull the country out of the serious situation it is experiencing.

IRAQI VICE PRESIDENT TO MEET CHAVES 10 MARCH

PY200226 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 19 Feb 82

[Excerpt] Vice President Aureliano Chaves will meet Iraqi Vice President Ma'ruf Taha at the Brasilia Air Force Base on 10 March 1982.

BORDER AGREEMENTS SIGNED WITH VENEZUELA

PY200240 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 19 Feb 82

[Text] Foreign Minister Ramiro Saraiva Guerreiro and his Venezuelan counterpart Jose Zambrano today signed bilateral cooperation agreements promoting and protecting contracts between border towns. The documents signed are: an agreement for land transportation of shipments across the border and an agreement on sanitary cooperation in border areas. The signing of these two agreements accounts for the formal side of the 2-day work visit paid by Saraiva to Venezuela.

Saraiva explained that the sanitary cooperation agreement will provide preventive measures to be applied in border areas to solve the problems raised by malaria and yellow fever. He also mentioned, among other things, the transportation agreement.

[Begin Saraiva recording] We also took advantage of the situation to talk about several bilateral issues. Some of them had already been studied, so that an agreement was reached on land transportation across the border with the purpose of promoting trade and mainly the facilitate considerably the lives of the people living in Amazonas and Roraima on the Brazilian side and of the territory of Amazonas and the so-called Guiana region on the Venezuelan side. [end recording]

Both Saraiva and Zambrano referred to the bilateral talks held during the visit as frank and cordial. They remarked that besides exclusively bilateral issues they viewed world affairs which are important for the two countries. According to Saraiva, they also talked about the North-South dialogue and its difficulties and prospects, as well as about the progress made in the implementation of the partial agreement among the members of the Latin American Integration Association -- LAIA. Saraiva remarked that there are no confrontations between the two countries, explaining that during his talks with Zambrano he tried to identify the opportunities for bilateral cooperation.

The Brazilian foreign minister was also received by President Herrera Campins. During the meeting, Saraiva and Campins talked about the satisfactory level of bilateral relations. The audience, held at the Miraflores Palace, was also attended by Foreign Minister Zambrano Velasco and by Brazilian Ambassador David Silveira de Motta. This audience marked the end of the work visit paid by the Brazilian foreign minister to Venezuela. Saraiva will return to Brazil today at midnight and will remain in Rio de Janeiro during the carnival celebrations.

FINANCE MINISTER DISCUSSES LONDON TRIP

PY220104 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 19 Feb 82

[Text] On evaluating his 5-day visit to London where he held talks with bankers, Finance Minister Ernane Galveas has said that Brazil will have no problems obtaining the necessary financial resources from the international banking community to balance its trade accounts this year. The positive results achieved [in the Brazilian economy] especially concerning efforts made to reverse the inflationary trend and to obtain surplus in trade accounts, have elicited renewed confidence from the international financial community.

Galveas said that the relatively high rates paid by Brazil for the spread [given in English], the risk rate charged on loans, should not be interpreted as a sign of fear on the part of banking institutions. He said that the spread paid by Brazil is higher than that paid by other countries because of two factors: first, Brazil only contracts loans at a minimum term of 8 years while most countries contract loans for shorter terms; and secondly, Brazil has been more steady in resorting to the market. He noted, however, that the expectations are that Brazil will gradually be able to become less dependent on the international financial market. The British bankers, he said, already have at hand the Brazilian economic projections, which they consider to be realistic.

COMMENT: 'U.S. WISHES TO SELL ARMS TO PARAGUAY'

PY201314 Sao Paulo Bandeirantes in Portuguese 1000 GMT 20 Feb 82

[Newton Carlos commentary]

[Text] The U.S. Army Chief of Staff [as heard] will be visiting Paraguay as of Sunday. Officially little is known about his visit, but it is undoubtedly in keeping with the Reagan government's defined policy, a policy which in Washington is termed as one aimed at building up the continent's defense system. Reagan's government supports the continent's defense system, which was weakened by Carter's human rights policy.

The policy of building up the defense system is underway with the resumption of arms sales to Argentina and the strengthening of relations between the United States and Chile. Now it is Paraguay's turn, where General Stroessner has been in power for more than 25 years. Everything points to the United States also resuming its sale of arms to Paraguay.

GDR DELEGATION MEETS OFFICIALS, WILL BUY IRON ORE

PY191910 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 18 Feb 82 p 32

[Text] At the closing of the fourth meeting of the Joint Brazilian-GDR Commission, Itamaraty revealed yesterday that the Vale do Rio Doce Company has started talks with a view to signing a contract with the GDR for the sale of iron ore during the 1982-85 period. The GDR delegation is headed by Wilhelm Bastian, deputy minister for foreign trade.

In Brasilia, the German delegation met with Mines and Energy Minister Cesar Cals; Planning Minister Delfim Neto; and with the secretaries general of the foreign affairs, agriculture, education and finance ministries. The joint commission will meet again next year in East Berlin.

Itamaraty reported that although it does not know the quantity of iron ore that is to be negotiated between the Vale do Rio Doce Company and the GDR, it did recall that this will be the first long-term contract for this product to be signed with the GDR. The commission began its talks with a view to negotiating a trade package for the 1982-85 period. This package will include manufactured products that will contribute to increasing bilateral trade. The GDR has also agreed to finance the laboratory equipment, amounting to \$15 million, for Sao Paulo University.

BERNSTEIN ON SAMORE'S CALL FOR PEACE

FY191123 Santiago Chile Diplomatic Information Service in Spanish 2215 GMT 18 Feb 82

[Text] According to the newspaper LA SEGUNDA, the following is a transcript of a dialogue that it held with ambassador Bernstein:

Question: On two occasions recently, 1 and 10 February, Cardinal Samore has formulated more calls for peace and has asked that the military situation be scaled down to what it was in 1979.

What is this due to? Why?

Answer: Regrettably because there have been provocations and incidents in the southern zone that is under mediation. The cardinal has formulated a call for peace in accordance with the Montevideo treaty. He made special reference to Act No 2. This commitment of the two governments was submitted to the pope and he stated that he would agree to act as mediator only if there was an atmosphere of harmony and peace. We believe that this is a reminder, a very opportune, useful and convenient call from Cardinal Samore that Act No 2 of Montevideo be respected.

Moreover, Ambassador Bernstein added, Cardinal Samore's statements, which in part have already been distorted, were also opportunely clarified. I refer to the irreversibility of the pope's proposal...

Question: Concretely, what type of provocations?

Answer: As it was the cardinal who spoke, I do not wish to interpret his statements. He referred to incidents that have occurred in the southern zone. I don't believe he mentioned specific cases. The call was made to the two governments.

Question: But, has Chile committed any violations?

Answer: To my knowledge none and I do not believe that it will commit them.

Regarding the meeting that Ambassador Bernstein had with Cardinal Samore yesterday, LA SEGUNDA asked him whether the Chilean reservation of resorting to the international court of justice had been discussed, Bernstein answered: The cardinal is well aware of our position, which was included in the answer submitted to Argentina when it denounced the 1972 treaty. This was not specifically talked about today.

SECURITY FORCES DISCOVER SOVIET BLOC WEAPONS

FY191327 Santiago Chile Domestic Service in Spanish 1000 GMT 19 Feb 82

[Text] Members of the security force have found arms and explosives in the El Carmen Canal in the stretch north of the [word indistinct] (251 El Bosque). The following items were found in a garment bag wrapped up in sacks: a Soviet-made Aka rifle with two clips, this weapon was provided with a special device so that it could be used with a silencer; a Vietnamese-made antitank bomb with a fuse; two whole clips for 9 mm sub-machineguns; 57 bullets for Aka rifles; 50 38 caliber bullets; one rifle tripod; 5 track suits, of which two were green and three blue. The arms and explosives were discovered during an investigation being carried out by security forces regarding attacks, known to the public, perpetrated by subversive elements. It was established that the bag had been hidden inside the El Carmen Canal since the first week of January. Some persons have been arrested in connection with this discovery and the security forces continue to carry out the necessary investigations.

LEGISLATIVE DECREE ON PUBLIC ORDER ISSUED

PA200400 Bogota Domestic Service in Spanish 1700 GMT 19 Feb 82

[Legislative decree signed by President Julio Cesar Turbay Ayala and his cabinet at a Council of Ministers session at Narino Palace; read by unidentified official -- live]

[Text] Exercising the powers bestowed upon him by Article 121 of the National Constitution and considering:

1. That Decree 2,131 of 7 October 1976 declared the public order disrupted and the entire national territory under a state of siege;
2. That it is publicly advisable to continue seeking the total pacification of those regions that have been affected by the activities of organizations opposed to the nation's juridical order;
3. That the government again wishes to provide the opportunity for the members of those organizations to assimilate into legal civic activities;

The president of the Republic of Colombia decrees:

Article 1. If, within a period of 2 months after the present decree goes into effect, the organizations opposed to the nation's juridical order, in the regions where activities disrupting the public order have been carried out, forward to the operational unit commander in the respective area a clear statement that they are willing to accept the benefits described further on; all military or police action toward capturing and controlling the group or groups making the statement will be suspended in the areas where such a statement originates. The military or police will maintain only those activities that those forces feel are necessary to protect the physical integrity and property of the inhabitants.

This suspension will be in effect for a period of 30 days, counted from the moment the statement mentioned in the above clause is received, and it will become definitive if the groups lay down and surrender their weapons.

Article 2. The group or groups that declare an end to their illegal activities and surrender their weapons to the military forces command operating in the respective region within the period of time indicated in the second clause of the above article will receive the benefits mentioned in the following articles. Surrender of the weapons will be accompanied by a list containing the names and identifications of the individuals in each group.

Paragraph 1. Anyone linked with any investigation connected with the activities of the groups mentioned in Article 1 -- either as an accomplice or helper without any weapons in his possession -- will merely have to say that he wishes to receive the benefits mentioned in this decree in order for these to be acknowledged.

Paragraph 2. The commission created by Decree No 2,761, of 8 October 1981 will be empowered to designate special delegates, when the circumstances so advise, to receive the statements on acceptance of the benefits of this decree and to witness the surrender of the weapons mentioned in the above articles.

Article 3. All penal action is voided on behalf of authors of or participants in rebellion, sedition, mutiny and other related crimes not excluded in Article 15, once they surrender their weapons and issue the statement discussed in Article 1 of this decree.

Article 4. The penalty for the crimes indicated in the next article is annulled for those sentenced but not detained, with the limitations contained therein, as long as they have surrendered their weapons -- should this be applicable in their case -- and have declared an end to their criminal activity.

Article 5. The annulment of both the penal action and the penalties discussed in the previous articles will be applicable to both authors of and participants in rebellion, sedition, mutiny and other related crimes. In no case will these benefits be granted to those who have committed the crimes of homicide outside of combat, kidnapping or extortion; or are illegally free because they committed the crime of escaping from prison.

Article 6. The benefits of this decree will also be extended to the members of groups deprived of freedom because of their connections with trials for rebellion, sedition, mutiny and other related crimes that have not been excepted, when the majority of the members of the same criminal organization have laid down their weapons in accordance with Article 2, as long as they issue the statement discussed in Article 1.

Article 7. In the case of penal actions underway for the crimes indicated in Article 15 and of accusations against any individual either connected with them or not, the judge in charge of the hearing will officially decree the annulment of the penal action by means of a motivated decision [providencia motivada] so long as the other requirements demanded in this decree are met.

Article 8. When there is no penal action or accusations against individuals on the surrender lists mentioned in Article 2, the superior military tribunal will officially and immediately dictate a motivated decision acknowledging the benefits established in this decree for those people. Such a judicial decision will be regarded as a ruling.

Article 9. When proceedings must continue for crimes that preclude applying the benefits mentioned in this decree, these proceedings will continue under the jurisdiction in charge of the hearing. The Supreme Court of Justice's penal reversal court will hear appeals for reversal and revision in those proceedings ruled on for a second appeal by the military superior tribunal.

Article 10. In the same decision voiding the sentences of those who have committed crimes to which this benefit is extended, but who must continue serving sentences for other crimes for which pardon is not possible, the judge in charge will make the corresponding punitive reduction.

Article 11. The judge in charge of the hearing will cancel the orders of capture issued for crimes to which the benefits discussed in Articles 3 and 4 of this decree are extended.

Article 12. The commanders of the military units who receive the weapons and lists containing the names and identifications of the members of an organization that has carried out activities against the public order will forward these documents to the attorney general's office through military forces delegate.

Article 13. Within 10 days following the implementation of this decree, the attorney general's office, through the delegates in charge of judicial and military vigilance, will obtain the information on the proceedings underway [word indistinct] for the crimes mentioned in Article 15.

Article 14. Within a period of 15 days following the obtaining of the information discussed in the previous articles, the attorney general will provide the documents needed for the implementation of this decree to the respective judges in charge of the hearings.

Article 15. For the purposes of this decree, a group opposed to the nation's juridical order is taken to mean a group of people with their own structure, under the same denomination, who have carried out activity typified in Articles 125 to 132 of the Penal Code.

Article 16. In order to determine who the members of an organization are, the attorney general will proceed to draft lists and numerical data on the persons involved in each of the armed groups. To this end, he will request the corresponding information from the authorities deemed pertinent.

Article 17. Foreigners accepting the benefits of this decree must leave this country within a period of 10 days.

Article 18. The commission created by Decree No 2,761, of 1981, will proceed to organize committees which, after listening to those who have fulfilled what is established in Articles 1 and 2 of the present decree, will prepare and submit to the commission plans to facilitate the assimilation of those citizens to the normal economic activity. Those plans will also contemplate the needs of the region affected by the activities carried out against public order. The commission will submit those plans to the government along with the observations or additions deemed necessary and an estimate of the resources that would be necessary in order to duly implement them.

Article 19. The agrarian Industrial and Mining Credit Fund and the Colombian Agrarian Reform Institute will adopt special plans for credits and the distribution of land in order to facilitate the assimilation of those who accept the benefits of this decree into legitimate economic activity. The credits granted can be guaranteed by the nation.

Article 20. The benefits discussed in the preceding articles will be implemented only in connection with crimes committed prior to the implementation of this decree.

Article 21. This decree will take effect from the moment of its publication and it suspends all legal provisions contrary to it.

Communicate and carry out.

Released in Bogota on 19 February 1982, with the signature of President Dr Julio Cesar Turbay Ayala and all the ministers of his Cabinet.

TURBAY URGES GUERRILLAS TO ACCEPT AMNESTY LAW

PA102210 Bogota Domestic Service in Spanish 1700 GMT 19 Feb 82

[Speech by Colombian President Julio Cesar Turbay Ayala at a Council of Ministers session at Narino Palace -- live]

[Excerpts] [Broadcast in progress] and thus give legal validity to the legislative decree that the national government has decided to issue after much study and consultation in order to again allow the assimilation into civilian life of people up in arms against the rightful regime existing in Colombia. [words indistinct] to create several conditions that also facilitate the assimilation of these same people into the economic process if they so wish. This government can be clearly identified as the government that has insisted the most on reaching a just and equitable peace among Colombians.

This decree that will immediately be made public responds to the elimination of legal penalties and punishments and very clear about the measures that must be adopted in the presently militarized areas. If those in these areas where up in arms against the rightful system declare that they are willing to return to legality and turn in their weapons, the government will demilitarize those areas and within a prudential period of 2 months, will refrain, through the arms forces, from trying to capture and control the citizens who were in these areas.

In addition, believing that there are people in the guerrilla movement who lack work, we have decided to carry out a policy with a broad social scope. We have therefore decided to authorize the Colombia Agrarian Reform Institute and the Agrarian Fund to draft special plans to grant lands and credits to those who seek the benefits of this decree with the government's guarantee.

It would be unfair if I failed to tell you that my compatriots on the Council of Ministers, without exception, have worked with perseverance, patriotism and good will in the study of this decree that we believe will be enthusiastically accepted by the public. I hope that the groups directly affected by this decree who will benefit most from it also accept it.

On many occasions I have said that I am sure that the movement underway in vast sectors of the country against the rightful system is encouraged and inspired abroad. It is therefore not always easy to obtain acceptance of a law or decree like this by the members of the groups that could benefit from it because the discipline of their movements often forces them to obey the orders of people who are less concerned about Colombia since they have no ties with its history, people or blood.

However, we want to appeal once more to the Colombian sentiment of the people who participate in these groups and tell them that we hope that in an intellectually independent and arrogant action, they rid themselves of any foreign pressure in order to seek the benefits of a law that is inspired by the best of motives, that respects human dignity, that does not want to subject any compatriot to infamous conditions and that -- I am sure -- if accepted by them, could result in the enjoyment of peace for all Colombians before too long.

With this statement, I want to present to my companeros of the Council of Ministers and the national public, the decree that we will sign and that will be immediately read by the secretary of the Council of Ministers.

More on Law

PA211531 Bogota Domestic Service in Spanish 1700 GMT 19 Feb 82

[Statement by Colombian President Julio Cesar Turbay Ayala following the reading of a legislative decree at Narino Palace -- live]

[Text] I have signed the decree establishing the abolishment of penal action for those who accept the benefits of the decree. I wish to tell the Colombians that, even before the decree was signed this morning, the government received reports that in the Caqueta zone and in other parts of the country, close to a hundred persons, trusting the government's word, reported to the authorities and placed themselves under the protection even before the decree was signed.

This shows that there is, undoubtedly, a large number of Colombians who want to join us in peace and we hope to be able to report to you, as the day goes on, that subversion and struggle have been extinguished and that most of the nation's territory has resumed legal status. I thank all of you for having attended this meeting and I now adjourn the cabinet meeting.

MINISTERS COMMENT ON NEW AMNESTY DECREE

PA200420 Bogota Domestic Service in Spanish 2330 GMT 19 Feb 82

[Recorded passages enclosed in quotation marks]

[Excerpt] The top echelons of government have expressed confidence that guerrilla groups will accept the measures promulgated today and that they will seek to reestablish public order throughout the nation.

On leaving Narino Palace [the presidential palace] the ministers of defense, government, foreign relations and justice, Gen Luis Carlos Camacho Leyva, Jorge Mario Eastman, Carlos Lemos Simmonds and Felo Andrade Manrique, reaffirmed the government's determination to adopt measures that will guarantee the prompt restoration of peace in the country and urged the media to broadly publicize the measures that have been adopted in order to avoid misunderstandings that might dissipate the good effects of the measures.

(Elvira Sanchez) has a report on the subject.

[Sanchez] On leaving the Council of Ministers, Justice Minister Felo Andrade Manrique said that the results of the measures implemented today will determine whether or not it will be possible to lift the state of siege. The minister said: "In the coming months the government will make it easier for the rebels to turn themselves in. Moreover, they will have the added incentive that the government will help them to improve their socioeconomic situation. The time is right for them. The elimination of penalties and the extension of the general (?deadline) for them to turn themselves in to the law constitute a very broad concession of benefits.

[Question] ?Will the state of siege be lifted?

[Answer] "That depends on the results of the measures."

For his part, Government Minister Jorge Mario Eastman said on leaving the palace that the measures adopted represent a great democratic opening toward a harmonious and just development within the framework of order and freedom. Here is the government minister's statement: " [In progress] ...Those who have placed themselves outside the law because they want a more just system. This is a great democratic opening toward a harmonious and just development within the framework of order and freedom. [words indistinct] the media have a great role in publicizing the content of these measures so they can be properly understood and misunderstandings or mistakes that might dissipate its effects avoided."

Foreign Minister Carlos Lemos Simmonds said that the measure also benefits foreign guerrillas who are presently operating in the country, because if they accept the elimination of penalties, they will be able to leave the country and return to their country of origin if they so desire, or go to a country of their choice. Here are the foreign minister's words: "This is very important for peace in the country. This is a decree to which I attribute significant importance because it is a means by which Colombians who have strayed onto the paths of subversion may recover legal status and contribute, along with all the rest of us, to making Colombia a country that is increasingly developed and more promising for all.

[Question] "Mr Minister, does the fact that foreigners are included mean that there are many foreigners among the Colombian guerrillas?

[Answer] "No. I believe it is a very small number, but I think the decision reached by the government constitutes good news for Colombian [as heard] diplomatic missions that have been concerned over the fate of their compatriots who have become involved in criminal activities. If those persons accept the provisions for the elimination of the penalty, they may leave the country and return to their country of origin if they wish or go to whatever nation they wish [words indistinct].

[Question] "What about those who have left the country (?after requesting asylum).

[Answer] "That is a different matter. The decree provides that in the case of escaped prisoners, the benefits do not apply. However, this question, of course, would have to be carefully analyzed, because if there was no escape from prison, the national government might possibly allow persons requesting asylum to receive the benefits of the decree."

Similarly, Defense Minister Gen Luis Carlos Camacho Leyva said emphatically that he hopes he will not be obliged to resume the actions of the armed forces in the regions considered to be guerrilla strongholds once the deadline imposed in the decree has expired. Let us listen to the defense minister's statement on this and other matters. "[Passage indistinct] in practice, I believe that the decree that has just been implemented is broad and confirms the government's determination to adopt measures that will restore peace in the country. [Passage indistinct] I think that if the decree is widely publicized, there would be no difficulties in doing so.

[Question] "What about after the deadline has expired," Mr Minister?

[Answer] "Well, the deadline is like medicines that are taken by the sick. They must have (?an expiration date). Consequently, if the (rebels) accept the decree, (?there will be) time to solve the problems. If they do not accept it, when the deadline expires [passage indistinct]

[Question] "When the deadline expires, will the action of the military forces be resumed in the areas of guerrilla activity?

[Answer] "We hope that we will not have to resume them."

PANAMANIAN, COSTA RICAN TO BENEFIT FROM AMNESTY

PA201242 Paris AFP in Spanish 0015 GMT 20 Feb 82

[Text] Bogota, 19 Feb (AFP) -- Five Panamanian students and a Costa Rican, who were members of a 19 April Movement, M-19, column, that came from Cuba with the intention of entering the country through the south, will be released in the next days, it was announced here today.

The Panamanians are Teodoro Hunt, Mario Alexis Concepcion, Ricardo Quintero Nelson, Roberto Garrido Bisuet and Pablo Fernandez Brumel. The Costa Rican is Saindel Bedoya Rivera.

They will benefit from a decree issued today by the government of President Julio Cesar Turbay Ayala. The decree proscribes punishment for those who have risen in arms.

This decision aimed at the pacification of Colombia will be applied to all guerrillas that surrender within 2 months and who have not been involved in kidnapping, extortion, homicide out of combat and poisoning of waters.

The Panamanian students were convicted of rebellion and sentenced to prison terms ranging from 4 to 5 years.

They entered the country on 10 March 1981 as part of a M-19 column that came from Cuba and which tried to enter the country through the Port of Tumaco, on the Pacific side. This action led to the suspension of relations between Colombia and Fidel Castro's regime.

Although the date when the Panamanians will be released has not been disclosed, it was said that they will have 10 days to leave the country. The Panamanians are members of the Panamanian Students Federation, FEP.

'NEW STRATEGY' FOR BORDER SETTLEMENT PLANNED

PA141935 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1230 GMT 14 Feb 82

[Text] The government feels that negotiated settlement of the territorial conflict with Peru -- in such a way as to obtain a sovereign outlet through the Amazon River -- is vitally important to the country. No door has been opened to this possibility, however, despite the position voiced by Brazil, which has urged that the two countries return to the negotiating table.

Other guarantors have not shown a similar attitude. This is particularly the case of Chile and Argentina, which have controversies of their own. This is the greatest obstacle and at the same time the government's goal. It wants these countries to develop an interest in Ecuador's problem.

The case is less troublesome concerning the United States, which is definitely very far removed from Latin America's territorial problems and would instead adopt a conciliatory stance to achieve peace and a settlement of the controversy.

An analysis of the president's tour suggests that the Foreign Ministry will undertake action under a new strategy. Not only that, but the president himself will head the diplomatic effort via tours to discuss the problem in person. Naturally, this would not include visits to Argentina or Chile, and much less to Peru, but instead visits to Colombia or Venezuela, which are engrossed in the problem and have reiterated their willingness to support any valid initiative that may lead to a face-saving settlement between the two nations involved in the conflict.

The Ecuadorean Government has set no timetable to implement this new strategy. But the Foreign Ministry does have precise instructions to drum up interest for the Ecuadorean plan at the Foreign Ministry level. The endeavor does not exclude efforts with the Peruvian Government, which must be coaxed into adopting a more flexible stance.

ARMED FORCES DENY PART IN JAIME ROLDOS' DEATH

PA161832 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0048 GMT 16 Feb 82

[Text] Quito, 15 Feb (EFE) -- The Ecuadorean Armed Forces today rejected any alleged implication of involvement in the 24 May 1981 airplane accident in which President Jaime Roldos was killed. Defense Minister Gen Jorge Maldonado issued a communique replying to charges leveled by Abdala Bucaram, brother of the deceased president's wife, Marta Bucaram. She also died in the accident.

At a special congressional session, Bucaram had reaffirmed his doubts about the validity of an armed forces' report on the causes of the tragedy. The report attributed the accident to a human error on the part of the pilot. Bucaram has suggested the possibility of a plot, in which Christian Democrat leaders and some military officers were involved, against the president's life. Bucaram claims that a document labeled "classified" by the armed forces and the government contains information on the alleged conspiracy.

The defense minister has said that although the reports on the accident were "classified" at the outset, they were later released to the public.

General Maldonado has warned that the armed forces will ask the authorities to take legal action against "those who disparage institutions and insult the honor of individuals."

BANK WITHDRAWS FROM FOREIGN EXCHANGE MARKET

FL181303 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0450 GMT 18 Feb 82

[Text] Mexico City, 17 Feb (NOTIMEX) -- Francisco Galindo Ochoa, the presidential press coordinator, said tonight that the measure adopted by the Bank of Mexico means that the institution will neither buy or sell dollars and that it will be up to the banks to fix the value of the U.S. dollar in accordance with the demand of those who want to purchase this currency. The statement is as follows:

In order to counter pressures from abroad on our currency and to prevent the speculation that has been going on with the peso based on the free exchange in effect in our country -- and which will continue without restrictions -- the Bank of Mexico was forced to adopt the decision to temporarily withdraw from the foreign exchange market. Though this may not be the most suitable one from several points of view, which have already been extensively explained by the Bank of Mexico itself.

During the fifth meeting of the republic in Guadalajara, President Jose Lopez Portillo made a strong appeal in defense of our currency. He said at the time: "We must look after our currency, that which helps us buy what we need from abroad. We cannot buy abroad with Mexican money, we have to make purchases with foreign currency, so let us look after them. There are several responsible courses to take for this purpose; first, let us defend our monetary self-determination, our money policies. Let us make our monetary policy a strong one since, as is known, currency has been one of the fundamental rights of our sovereignty since the birth of the modern state.

"Let us defend our peso. This does not necessarily mean we should overvalue it but rather make it fit our interests and not the interests of speculators or shady foreign interests."

In view of the present situation, the government of the republic appeals to the often demonstrated patriotism of Mexicans to keep calm and understand that this measure is necessary to avoid further evils. It is expected that with this temporary withdrawal the foreign exchange market will return to normal. The measure calls for the Bank of Mexico to neither purchase or sell dollars.

Lopez Portillo Explains Move

FL192339 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1645 GMT 19 Feb 82

[By Enrique Alvarez Manilla]

[Text] Mexico City, 19 Feb (NOTIMEX) -- The policy of monetary protection did not work out; the country was depleting its reserves and what happened in 1976 could have been repeated, President Jose Lopez Portillo stated when he assumed responsibility for withdrawing the Bank of Mexico from the Exchange Market (mercado cambiario). Addressing the members of the army during a breakfast he hosted for them, the chief of state explained the reasons which moved him to make that decision and not impose an exchange control.

Lopez Portillo assumed the responsibility for that "painful" decision, which is the only measure that could be adopted to defend the country from foreign depression that would hinder progress and advance in the process of generating jobs. Foreign inflation, he said, affected the currency despite all efforts such as avoiding excessive imports, establishing import tariffs and licenses and stimulating exports.

Because of the characteristics of Mexico's system of freedoms due to the proximity of the United States, it was absurd to impose an exchange control as some 20 million Mexicans coexist with the U.S. economy.

Such an action would isolate them and create a black market, a greater harm than the measure adopted 2 days ago, he stressed. He recalled that on 5 February in Guadalajara, an appeal had been made to the patriotic feelings and national responsibility as a result of the pressures from within and without on the Mexican currency.

The policy of monetary protection was not fully understood for legitimate reasons, for interests or ambitions, and as a result of that, this week the Bank of Mexico suffered heavy assaults on its reserves. "When I realized that the reserves were running the risk of being depleted in a just a few more days, in the silence of my office at Los Pinos [official residence] I made the painful decision of withdrawing the bank from the monetary market so that there would not be a repetition of what occurred in 1976," he stressed.

He explained that in 1976 a similar measure had been adopted but, by then, the Bank of Mexico had run out of reserves and, in order to survive in the international arena, it became necessary to resort to agreements with the International Monetary Fund and consequently allow foreign meddling in national economic measures. The measure had to be timely so that, putting it in another way, "we would not run out of chips and would be able to continue playing," and in that manner the economy would not be managed from abroad, he said.

The chief of state noted that the measure has negative and positive aspects. It is a lesser evil, and with calm and patriotism, benefits can be derived from it. Now excessive imports are expensive and tourism and exports are competitive. If those who have and can cooperate and do not abuse the situation or the exercise of the freedoms that the institutions' generosity offer good and bad Mexicans, the country will overcome this and any other test.

He demanded that it should be understood that it is a lesser evil and that it is part of the measures aimed at consolidating the economy and other accomplishments, which at this time appear to be vanishing. But it will improve the relative situation and strengthen the firm pillars to continue to generate jobs. In closing, he thanked the Mexican Army for its solidarity. He asserted that up to the last day of his administration no obstacle or setback will deter him from his effort to defend the right of all Mexicans to work.

Army Supports Measure

FL192358 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1537 GMT 19 Feb 82

[Excerpts] Mexico City, 19 Feb (NOTIMEX) -- Now more than ever, Mexicans must rally around the government and not allow the least division, so that together we may face up to the foreign pressures to which the country is being subjected. Div Gen Alonso Aguirre Ramos, chief of the Department of Military Industry, made the statement on behalf of all members of the army during the breakfast President Jose Lopez Portillo hosted today in their honor at the Campo Marte military casino.

The general stressed that all members of the army and air force support the president in the measures adopted by his administration because, doubtlessly, his decision was made to benefit the nation.

Finally, he asserted that the army, loyal to its principles, will continue to support the president until the last day of his administration, that it will remain on the alert, as always, to defend Mexico's sovereignty and guarantee territorial integrity and national security, as well as cooperating in the country's development.

FRENCH PLANNING MINISTER ARRIVES FOR 4-DAY VISIT

PA181904 Paris AFP in Spanish 0042 GMT 18 Feb 82

[Text] Mexico City, 17 Feb (AFP) -- Michel Rocard, French minister of state for economic planning and development, today reiterated Nicaragua's right to "diversify its military resources" and he added that France believes that this right will permit Nicaragua to obtain its autonomy and independence. Rocard made the statement on his arrival in Mexico this afternoon for an official 4-day visit at the invitation of Mexican Programming and Budget Secretary Ramon Aguirre Velasquez. Rocard made the statement in reply to a question on the French Government's recent decision to sell weapons to Nicaragua.

Questioned about Spanish Foreign Minister Pedro Perez Llorca's criticism in Mexico today about the French-Mexican declaration recognizing political representation to the opposition forces in El Salvador, Rocard stressed that the human rights problem "is a sufficiently important subject to interest all the international community." Perez Llorca had stated that the declaration was justified in the case of Mexico due to its geographic position but that it was less justified in the case of France.

Rocard, the eighth French minister to visit Mexico since the election of President Francois Mitterrand, will meet with President Jose Lopez Portillo, Secretary Aguirre Velasquez and Finance Secretary David Ibarra Munoz.

The French minister said that the main objective of his visit is to deepen the common views and political positions held by France and Mexico, particularly with regard to the establishment of a new international economic order and the strengthening of North-South relations. He also said he was bringing a message from President Mitterrand in which he expresses France's desire to intensify French-Mexican relations in the political, foreign relations and international economic areas.

Meets With President

FL201346 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0255 GMT 20 Feb 82

[Excerpts] Mexico City, 19 Feb (NOTIMEX) -- Mexico's adoption of a measure to give its currency its real value opens up a broad spectrum of possibilities, markets and economic optimism. This was said by French Planning Minister Michel Rocard when interviewed following his meeting tonight with President Jose Lopez Portillo at Los Pinos.

The high-level French official said after meeting for over half an hour with the Mexican president that the measure to change the peso's parity was painful, difficult, necessary and inevitable but, all in all, one that opened optimistic prospects for Mexico.

Michel Rocard declared that France's doors are open to Mexican exports because its system is hardly protectionist and tariff rates are relatively low. There are no obstacles to Mexico selling more to France, but not so for France because French firms have a poor understanding of Mexico's economic conditions. He reported that he is spending 2 1/2 days in Mexico to examine ways in which planning techniques can improve further the relations between the two countries and give them a more adequate outlook, and he said he had discussed this with President Lopez Portillo.

ILLUECA REITERATES CALL FOR REAGAN-CASTRO TALKS

PA191419 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2300 GMT 18 Feb 82

[Excerpt] Panamanian Foreign Minister Jorge Illueca today reiterated his belief that Ronald Reagan Fidel Castro should meet to eliminate the violent political tensions in Latin America. Interviewed at the Omar Torrijos Airport on his arrival from Caracas Foreign Minister Illueca explained his proposal for a Reagan-Castro meeting.

[Begin recording] [Illueca] Regarding the relations or I should say the lack of relations between the United States and Cuba, one cannot disregard the fact that all of Latin America is convulsed, particularly Central America, and that there is a rivalry between the two superpowers, the United States and the Soviet Union. When I was asked about this, I said something very simply which I am reiterating. If Cuban Vice President Carlos Rafael Rodriguez and Secretary of State Haig met in a somewhat secret manner, then let U.S. President Ronald Reagan and Cuban President Comdr Fidel Castro meet without any preconditions. I think this would help lower the tensions. If there is talk of interventionism by the socialists and interventionism by the United States, then please let them talk so that we Latin American peoples will be freed of situations that are very violent and harmful and which affect our future.

[Question] Foreign Minister, there is talk of a negotiated solution to the Salvadoran crisis. How do you think that a united Latin American effort should contribute to that solution?

[Answer] I think your question is very relevant. I believe that Latin American problems need Latin American solutions. I think the current Latin American generation expects from their political leaders initiative, action, creativity and imagination. We in Latin America cannot wait around for actions that Mr Brezhnev or Mr Reagan might want to take. I think Latin America has a spiritual, cultural, economic and political personality that is different from that of the socialist countries, the United States and the European Community. We Latin Americans are just that; Latin American.
[end recording]

In reference to Nicaragua: Foreign Minister Illueca also expressed support for the people's right to self-determination:

[Begin recording] Nicaragua has the right to exist, the right to self-determination. It is a country which evidently has a revolutionary attitude but you should not forget its history. It is a country that has just gone through a bloody revolution, that has shaken off a blood tyranny, a country in which thousands of lives have been lost. It is a country that is looking for its destiny. You cannot expect that country to function normally as other democracies. That country has the right to exist. I think those who think that Nicaragua or any other country can now be the object of intervention are behind the times. I don't think intervention is acceptable in Latin America. No country and, I would say, no peoples of Latin America accept intervention. I would say that the Latin American leaders who think that they can go over that conscience of the Latin American peoples are committing political suicide.
[end recording]

BRIEFS

PETROLEUM CONSULTING CONTRACT -- The Panamanian Government and the International Petro-Consultant firm signed today a \$500,000 contract for the selection of petroleum prospecting areas in Darien and in Bocas Del Toro, near Costa Rica. The state will reserve exploration rights. The work financed by a \$4.5 million loan from the World Bank covers a 3-year period. [Panama City Televisora Nacional Spanish 2300 GMT 15 Feb 82 PA]

CDC FOREIGN MINISTERS HOLD FIRST WORK SESSION

PA181826 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1755 GMT 18 Feb 82

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 18 Feb (ACAN-EFE) -- It was reported here today that the foreign ministers of the Central American Democratic Community [CDC] concluded their first work session in Tegucigalpa, "laying the groundwork for the development of the points and ideas of the treaty that created the organization." The foreign ministers of Costa Rica, Bernd Niehaus; El Salvador, Fidel Chavaz Mena; and Honduras, Edgardo Paz Barnica met for more than 2 hours yesterday afternoon to discuss "mechanisms for constant communication regarding the activities of the community."

The Costa Rican representative took advantage of his visit to Honduras to invite President Robert Suazo Cordova to the inauguration of the new president to be held in San Jose on 8 May. "Our organization is not a closed entity. What happens is that, because of political reasons, it is advisable that multinational organizations be founded with a small group of countries, but these groups are accessible to other states," Niehaus said, in answer to criticism about the alleged inflexibility of the number of CDC members.

The Salvadoran foreign minister stressed that "it must be left clear that the CDC is not exclusive or negative toward the other countries of the region. On the contrary, our spirit is that of integration and solidarity." However, Chavez Mena conceded, "we have not yet considered the possibility of permitting the entry of another country into the CDC."

EL SALVADORDEFENSE MINISTER SAYS NO TO U.S. TROOPS

PA202003 San Salvador EL DIARIO DE HOY in Spanish 20 Feb 82 p 5

[Excerpt] Shortly after meeting with U.S. Congressman Clarence D. Long, Defense Minister Gen Jose Guillermo Garcia said that "We will not allow the North American government to send troops to our country." Long is officially visiting our country to learn about the real military situation and the armed forces' needs. He has already met with members of the armed forces high command including General Garcia, Defense Under Secretary Col Francisco Adolfo Castillo, and Col Rafael Flores Lima, chief of the Armed Forces General Staff.

Congressman Long said he stopped in Nicaragua before coming to El Salvador and that he met with several Sandinist leaders such as Daniel Ortega Saavedra, to whom he expressed concern over the constant smuggling of weapons from Nicaragua to the Salvadoran terrorists. According to Long, Ortega Saavedra answered him with a question "What can I do to stop it?" Long said he noticed "some sincerity in the Sandinist." However, General Garcia said he thought the Sandinist's words were in no way sincere because they have repeatedly expressed sympathy for the Salvadoran terrorists.

ARMY, AIR FORCE FIGHT REBELS IN SAN VICENTE

PA192320 San Salvador EL MUNDO in Spanish 18 Feb 82 p 3

[Excerpt] Special troops from the 5th Infantry Brigade of San Vicente, supported by the air force, have been waging a bitter fight against extremists since 0600. According to official reports, the fighting is taking place on the Pan-American Highway sector between km 69 at the detour to San Felipe and km 73 at El Junquillar village.

It was announced at 5th Brigade Headquarters that this brigade sent in counterinsurgency forces, that the commanders of these forces reported they had contacted the enemy and that fighting ensued. The situation had not changed by 1100. The reports add that planes and helicopters were flying over the area in support of the infantry, which had cornered the extremist.

Other sources reported that well-armed terrorists, some of whom wore fatigue uniforms, paralyzed reconstruction work on the highway and began destroying vehicles and equipment of the Harrison Construction Company at 0600.

It was also reported that extremist groups had been stopping commercial and private vehicles, asking passengers and drivers to step out and hand over their money, objects and merchandise. The extremists later destroyed the vehicles.

At the time of this edition's printing, the 5th Brigade in San Vicente still did not have the final report on the actions going on at the Pan-American Highway.

FMLN SAYS U.S. ADVISERS LEAD ARMY ACTIONS

PA190350 Paris AFP in Spanish 2220 GMT 18 Feb 82

[Text] San Jose, 18 Feb (AFP) -- The FMLN of El Salvador has reported that the last counter-insurgency offensive by the army in Usulután in the eastern part of the country ended in "utter failure" for the government forces. While official sources in El Salvador announced the end of the "cleanup" operation with a toll of 28 slain guerrillas, the dismantling of rebel camps and seizure of arms; the guerrilla organization claimed today that "not only are we in a position to be able to counterattack the enemy, but we can also check their offensives even before they are launched."

In fact, according to FMLN reports disseminated today by the AGENCIA INDEPENDIENTE DE PRENSE (AIP), which is linked with the Salvadoran opposition, the insurgents attacked last Monday the 3d Infantry Brigade based in San Miguel, 136 km east of the Salvadoran capital, resulting in the utter failure of the armed forces maneuvers." [Quote marks as received]

At the same time, according to the rebel sources, FMLN squads concurrently attacked government positions in San Vicente, occupied outlying districts of San Sebastian and made incursions in San Jose de las Flores, San Ramon, Apopa, Tomacatepeque, adjoining townships and San Salvador. Furthermore, the FMLN spokesmen stated that in the armed forces command post located in El Delirio Usulután Department, there were "five U.S. advisers wielding M-16 rifles who were directing the actions."

The FMLN also reported on the official rebel radio station Radio Venceremos that the government troops, on leaving the area, attacked the townships of Zapote, San Felipe, Tablon, Calamar, and Los Cangrejos; "killing many of the inhabitants." The guerrilla organization asserted that the armed forces high command intends to launch another operation in San Vicente and Cabanas Departments in the central part of El Salvador. This has not been confirmed by official sources.

Finally, Radio Venceremos reported as "a new demonstration that the armed forces is being defeated" by the FMLN, the visit by Wallace Nutting, commander in chief of the U.S. Southern Command based in the Panama Canal Zone, who arrived in El Salvador to observe the activities of the U.S. advisers stationed in ("this country").

[(Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish at 1200 CMT on 18 February reported the following: "A few minutes after genocidal Garcia announced having cleaned up the subversives in the Usulután area, our revolutionary forces in Usulután continued hitting the enemy after defeating the dictatorship's military operation led by Yankee advisers from the enemy post in El Delirio."

"Gen Wallace Nutting, commander in chief of the U.S. Southern Command, has arrived in El Salvador to meet with the high military command as part of the increasing U.S. intervention in the country.

["His visit reflects the concern of the U.S. imperialist government at a time when the Salvadoran people have increased their liberation struggle and when there are only a few weeks before the elections in El Salvador that are promoted by the U.S. Government. It is curious that this visit is taking place only 1 week before the announced speech by Reagan on the Caribbean basin, in which he will refer to the problem of the war in El Salvador."]

FOUR U.S. ADVISERS ALLEGEDLY KILLED IN COMBAT

PA191859 Havana International Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 19 Feb 82

[Text] Salvadoran communist leader Ruben Sanchez reiterated in Prague that four U.S. officers died in combat in El Salvador while fighting the guerrillas. On this occasion, Sanchez even gave the dates on which these officers died.

GUATEMALA

FUR PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE KILLED BY GUNFIRE

PA211815 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1632 GMT 21 Feb 82

[Excerpt] Guatemala City, 21 Feb (ACAN-EFE) -- Guillermo Rodriguez Serrano, presidential candidate for the United Revolutionary Front [FUR], was murdered yesterday in Guatemala City's downtown commercial sector. Rodriguez was attacked on Saturday by two persons on a motorcycle, who fired on him at close range, Guatemalan officials said. The FUR leaders decided not to participate in the presidential elections because of the political violence in Guatemala today and because there were no guarantees for its branches in the provinces.

GOVERNMENT DOES NOT WANT ELECTION OBSERVERS

PA190300 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2328 GMT 18 Feb 82

[Text] Guatemala City, 18 Feb (ACAN-EFE) -- Guatemalan Foreign Minister Rafael Castillo Valdez announced today that the Guatemalan Government feels that it is not necessary to invite foreign observers to the 7 March elections. The Guatemalan foreign minister told the Guatemala City newspaper LA HORA: "I don't think observers should come for the elections. What better observers are there than the Guatemalans?"

The minister also explained the measures adopted by the Guatemalan Government to keep certain foreigners, Catholic priests among them, from entering the country. According to Castillo Valdez, several foreigners have arrived in Guatemala and later disappeared, thus creating problems for Guatemalan society and increasing the number of lies spread about the political, economic and social realities of this Central American country.

Regarding the Catholic priests arriving in Guatemala, the foreign minister said that the Guatemalan authorities are analyzing their cases in order to determine which ones come to help Guatemala. High-ranking military chiefs have recently revealed that ties exist between a number of religious congregations and the guerrilla groups. They have advised: "It would be best if they leave the country because of the weight of the law may fall on them."

Castillo Valdez Comments

PA192009 Guatemala City Radio-Television Guatemala in Spanish 0400 GMT 19 Feb 82

[Text] Foreign Minister Rafael Castillo Valdez today criticized a proposal that foreign observers come to Guatemala during the elections. The proposal was made by Vinicio Cerezo, secretary general of the Guatemalan Christian Democracy, in Washington.

[Begin recording] [Castillo Valdez] Vinicio Cerezo's election campaign has been much more intense outside Guatemala than inside Guatemala. I think he probably has more votes in Washington than in Guatemala. Therefore, it is understandable that this proposal has come from him because for many months and years he has been participating in international organizations that undoubtedly have their own interests, interests which in my personal opinion don't necessarily coincide with the interests of the Guatemalan people.

[Question] Have observers been invited to be present during the elections?

[Answer] We believe that the 7 million Guatemalans are the most important observers. They will be ones to cast votes. The voters and the winners will come from among those 7 million. Therefore, we think that our Guatemalan citizens are much more important than any foreign observers. We hope that each Guatemalan will fully observe the greatness of the election process that will be held. [end recording]

More on Election

PA201936 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1509 GMT 20 Feb 82

[Text] Guatemala City, 20 Feb (ACAN-EFE) -- Government spokesman Carlos Toledo announced today that Guatemala will invite no observers, not even from international bodies, to attend the 7 March elections. Toledo added that "Guatemala has its doors open but cannot invite anyone to come here and engage in politics at our expense. Anyone is free to come here but at his own expense and risk." The announcement confirms the personal statement which Guatemalan Foreign Minister Rafael Castillo Valdez made on Thursday. The foreign minister said that "Guatemala does not need foreign observers to come here because the best observers of the elections will be Guatemalans themselves."

For their part, the opposition political parties have reiterated their request that international bodies supervise the elections to reduce the possibility of fraud favoring Gen Anibal Guevara, the official candidate. Vinicio Cerezo, secretary general of the Guatemalan Christian Democracy, DCG, has said in Washington that these elections are Guatemala's last chance to establish peace and avoid becoming a new El Salvador.

The DCG supports Alejandro Maldonado, who is regarded in Guatemala as the moderate leftwing candidate opposed to Gen Romeo Lucas Garcia. Vinicio and Maldonado have both asked repeatedly for international observers. Mario Sandoval Alarcon, the rightist and anticommunist opposition candidate, has also made an international appeal for experts on elections and foreign policy to come to Guatemala on 7 March and raise appropriate charges if any fraud takes place.

NICARAGUACOMMANDER BORGE PRAISES MEXICAN AID, CREDITS

PA181817 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0010 GMT 18 Feb 82

[Text] Managua, 17 Feb (ACAN-EFE) -- Today Nicaraguan Interior Minister Commander Tomas Borge described Mexico's aid to the Sandinist revolution as "fraternal, discreet and unconditional."

The Sandinist commander gave a detailed recounting of Mexico's aid to Nicaragua, stressing the annual supply of an estimated \$70 million on oil. He also noted that 30 percent of the \$70 million in oil is offered as long-range soft credit.

Borge revealed that of the 394 internationalist doctors serving in Nicaragua, 125 are Cuban and the rest -- 209 -- are of various nationalities, including Mexican. The Sandinist commander added that Nicaragua has received this aid from Mexico "without ostentation" in various fields, such as health, education and nutritional assistance, through binational organizations and as credits for medicine and scholarships for Nicaraguan personnel.

Minister Borge also announced the upcoming arrival of the Mexican secretary of agriculture, who will sign a \$50 million loan to Nicaragua to promote a new binational firm for the development of forestry in the northeastern part of Nicaragua. "Because of that and because of the Mexican aid, which goes beyond all expectations, the Sandinist government will present Mexican President Jose Lopez Portillo with the 'Augusto Cesar Sandino' award," Commander Borge said.

President Lopez Portillo will receive the award during a popular rally at the Plaza de la Revolution, Carlos Fonseca Amador, of Managua, on 21 February. Borge revealed that President Lopez Portillo asked that the award be given in a ceremony before the people.

MEXICO'S LOPEZ PORTILLO ARRIVES ON OFFICIAL VISIT

PA211618 [Editorial Report] Managua Domestic Service in Spanish at 1458 GMT, in a national linkup of transmitters, carries a live relay from Managua's Augusto Cesar Sandino Airport on the arrival on an official visit of Mexican President Jose Lopez Portillo. Reception is good. The announcer notes the presence at the airport of "diplomats, reporters" and other Nicaraguan and Mexican citizens and reports the arrival at 1500 GMT of Nicaraguan Foreign Affairs Minister Miguel d'Escoto Brockman, along with other "government officials." The initial relay ends at 1506 GMT.

Following a 19-minute musical interlude, the radio resumes its live relay from Sandino Airport at 1525 GMT. He notes that the Mexican president's plane lands at 1527 GMT and reports that junta members Daniel Ortega Saavedra, Sergio Ramirez Mercado and Regael Cordova Rivas, along with FSLN Directorate members Interior Minister Tomas Borge, Humberto Ortega Saavedra and Victor Manuel Tirado Lopez, are on hand to greet the Mexican president.

President Jose Lopez Portillo disembarks at 1540 GMT and is greeted by the junta members, embracing Daniel Ortega. Ortega welcomes him by saying: "We greet President Lopez Portillo as the representative of the heroic people of Mexico, who have shown solidarity with the people of Sandino. His presence here, besides demonstrating a just recognition of the land of Sandino, reflects valuable cooperation in the people's struggle for independence and peace. Welcome, Lopez Portillo."

Lopez Portillo responds by saying: "I am honored to be in the land of the general of free men, Sandino. Mexico sends the brothers of Nicaragua its fraternal salute." He then notes that he has come not only to receive an honor "but to be useful to the cause of justice, freedom and peace." He expresses the hope that his presence, as the representative of the Mexican people, will contribute to the achievement of solutions to both multilateral and bilateral issues, and ends by thanking Ortega for his welcome.

Following this, the Nicaraguan military guards presents honors to Lopez Portillo, who is described as standing before the Nicaraguan flag with the junta members and with Henry Ruiz Hernandez, planning minister; Bayardo Arce Castano, coordinator of the FSLN Political Committee; Luis Carrion Cruz, deputy interior minister; Rene Nunez Tellez, FSLN National Secretariat member; and Jaime Wheelock Roman, agricultural development and agrarian reform minister.

After anthems are played by the "Sandinist band," Lopez Portillo moves to the automobile that will take him to the Carlos Fonseca Amador Plaza of the Revolution, where he will "receive the welcome of the Sandinist people." The live relay ends at 1558 GMT.

Lopez Portillo Speech

PA212212 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 1724 GMT 21 Feb 82

[Speech by Mexican President Jose Lopez Portillo at a ceremony held in his honor at the Carlos Fonseca Amador Plaza of the Revolution in Managua--live]

[Excerpts] Nicaraguan brothers, I have the privilege of being with you, among you, as I was 2 years ago, summoned by the name of Sandino, because of what this time of struggle and sacrifice meant to what is now seen as the path and model of liberation. With the people of Mexico, I deeply regret that this day was stained with the sacrifice of Nicaraguan blood. Please accept the condolences of the Mexican people and the firm message: Terrorism will not intimidate us and threats will not restrain us. [applause]

When I learned of the decision of the Nicaraguan Government and the FSLN National Directorate to confer upon me the order of Gen Augusto Cesar Sandino in the grade of Battle of San Jacinto, which now does honor to my chest, as the representative of the Mexican people, I felt deeply honored by that decision, and most sincerely moved because it is an insignia that symbolizes the ideals of our peoples. I receive this decoration with great humility and I interpret it as a tribute to Mexican-Nicaraguan solidarity. Through me, Nicaraguan brothers, please receive the fraternal and sincere thanks of the Mexican people for such a high distinction.

We reiterate here what we have said publicly and in private to one party and the other: Central American and even Caribbean revolutions are above all the struggles of poor and oppressed people to live better and with more freedom. To describe them as something else and act as if they were otherwise is counterproductive. This in the end brings about that which one sought to avoid. Hopes should not be cancelled and people and their rights should not be hemmed in. [applause]

Mexico's posture with regard to the Sandinist revolution is based on this assessment. Our support for the struggle of the Nicaraguan people against the Somozist tyranny was not a last-minute affair. Our support for the Junta of National Reconstruction and the FSLN during the equally difficult struggle to reconstruct a country that was destroyed and to consolidate a young state, was extended from the very beginning, and I believe that I can confirm that it has been unflinching. Today, now that time has passed, I can say loudly and with pride, and I am sure with the agreement of all Mexicans; our solidarity with the Nicaraguan revolution is a source of pride to Mexico. [applause]

For the aforementioned reasons, and because I fully share the authentic and supportive sympathy that struggles like this one have always generated in Mexican sensibilities; this support has become a true cornerstone of our foreign policy. It is not and will not be afflicted with the vicissitudes of repentance or disillusion and it will certainly not yield to terror or threats. [applause]

Neither foreign pressure and provocations nor the natural internal impatience and demands have altered the Nicaraguan leaders' commitment to their people. They have made no changes in the position that they have outlined to the international community on many occasions. I pay tribute here to such constancy and honesty in political conduct and to their firm determination to avoid bloodying the postrevolution. [applause]

To my Sandinist friends I say: Continue on your path, which is the one chosen by the people. Mexico has been and will always be at your side. [applause] Always at your side.

It has been there in times of joy and it is there now in times of difficulty, in times when the horizon is darkened by the clouds of foreign threat, not only to Nicaragua, but also to the entire region.

An intervention in Central America and the Caribbean would represent a gigantic historic error, in addition to constituting a return to phases that sought to give rights by force. It would provoke a continental upheaval and the resurgence of a deep anti-U.S. feeling in the best men of all Latin America. I can assure... [interrupted by applause] I can assure my good friends in the United States that what is occurring here in Nicaragua, what is happening in El Salvador and the wind that is blowing throughout the entire region does not represent an intolerable danger to the basic interests and the national security of the United States. However, they do imply a risk of historic condemnation if there is a violent curtailment of the rights that the U.S. people undoubtedly demand for themselves; self-determination with independence, dignity and the exercise of sovereignty. [applause]

I am happy to have heard from Commander Ortega the five points that the junta has proposed and that have been publicly and openly accepted here by the Nicaraguan people. [applause] The fact that I also dare to say this publicly in front of these people means only that it is time for reason to prevail. The fact that we all agree to seek peace requires that we all adhere to peaceful reasoning. That is why I dare to outline my proposal to the people here, to the region and to the United States.

It is not an overall peace for the region, since as such it could hardly be successful. It is a matter of proposing -- through channels that are separate, if close and possibly convergent over the medium term -- means for negotiation, for the exchange of concessions and formalization of these concessions that could lead to a climate of detente, peace, democracy, stability and development.

This option necessarily implies two premises. Each interested party must make real concessions, and second, no one should be obliged to renounce his basic principles or his vital interests.

There are three thorny points in the region's conflict: Nicaragua, El Salvador and, if one wishes to look at things directly, the relationship between Cuba and the United States. [applause] I believe that if these last two countries were to follow the path opened by the talks between the U.S. secretary of state and the vice president of the Cuban Councils of State and Ministers, there would be real possibilities for dialogue to be converted into negotiations.

The present detente in southern Africa allows for predicting certain real possibilities in this regard. I do not wish to go into detail at this point; however, we emphatically accept the possibility that Mexico may play a more active role in this regard. We have some useful ideas which we think are effective on the subject. They are based essentially on the complex, but not unresolvable system of mutual concessions by each party.

With every consideration, I dare to refer to El Salvador. It is obvious that the aggravation of the war, of violence and of tragedy have reached extreme levels. Mexico, which for some time has advocated a political and negotiated solution to the Salvadoran conflict, sees with great concern the increasingly limited possibility that negotiation will put an end to the bloodbath suffered by those people, who are subject to the risks of unbearable victories or intolerable intervention. Between elections without negotiation and negotiation without elections, there is undoubtedly a solution consisting of a commitment to a constituent assembly. I do not wish to go into this in detail at this time. I will say only that this solution could be one formula submitted to all the interested parties for discussion. Similarly, I believe that the main U.S. concerns regarding the possible consequences of a negotiated resolution of the Salvadoran crisis should be resolved. Mexico and other countries that are friends and even allies of the United States could be in a position to provide guarantees in this regard.

Finally, and I wish to be more specific in this case, I propose here a number of steps and ideas that fortunately coincide with those that have been expressed about Nicaragua's situation in the region. There are three basic points for a possible relaxation of tensions in the area.

First the U.S. Government must rule out all threat or use of force against Nicaragua. It is dangerous, unworthy and unnecessary. [applause] Invoking the close relationship between Mexico and its neighbor to the north, I reiterate from here my direct and respectful call to President Reagan, who fortunately has already made statements in this regard; no armed intervention in Central America and certainly not in Nicaragua. [applause]

Second, I say this with reflection and with the greatest consideration to these threatened people. It is possible and indispensable to begin a process of balanced reduction of military troops in the area. If the bands of Somozist guardsmen who are operating along the border between Honduras and Nicaragua are disarmed and if the training of similar groups within the United States is brought to an end, thus eliminating a real threat to this country's safety, once could believe that the Nicaraguan Government will simultaneously give up both the purchase of weapons and airplanes and the use of its scarce resources to maintain military troops on a scale that worries bordering and nearby countries. This is what I consider to be the truth, with all respect, Nicaraguans. [applause]

The third and last point is: I believe that it is feasible and desirable to draft a system of nonaggression pacts between Nicaragua and the United States, on the one hand, and between Nicaragua and its neighbors on the other. Such instruments would formalize previously reached agreements and, to the extent that they were not directed against any particular party, they would contribute significantly to the establishment of a lasting peace in the region.

I have no doubts that if this system of pacts became a reality, the main points of dispute in relations between Nicaragua and the United States could be resolved by negotiations immediately afterward.

These points constitute the public part of Mexico's proposal. They constitute a number of serious and realistic measures, free of demagoguery and of national or personal ambition. They are based on a simple, but decisive idea: If each party accepts that his neighbor should and can live however he wishes, the difference of interests and approaches are surmountable through negotiation.

On the foreign front, Mexico does not defend one or another ideology. It defends principles. It defends the supreme right of peoples to self-determination and to respect for the sovereignty of each country. In the name of these principles, in the name of responsibility that my position implies and in the name of the imperative need for peace, I make a call from Managua to peoples and their rulers: The consequences of failure are unthinkable. I appeal to men of good will. Let us all give each other a last chance. We will make good use of it. Thank you very much. [applause]

Mexican President Departs

PA212352 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2332 GMT 21 Feb 82

[Text] Managua, 21 Feb (ACAN-EFE) -- Mexican President Jose Lopez Portillo today concluded a 9-hour visit, during which he was awarded the Nicaraguan Revolution's "Augusto Cesar Sandino" decoration in its highest grade. The Mexican Air Force plane, "Quetzalcoal I," in which the Mexican president and his large entourage are travelling, took off from the Managua Sandino Airport at 1720 (2320 GMT). The Nicaraguan Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction and the FSLN Directorate were at the airport to bid a warm farewell to the Mexican president. [passage indistinct]

PDRY'S 'ALI NASIR BEGINS TALKS WITH CASTRO

FL181255 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1145 GMT 18 Feb 82

[Text] The official talks between the Cuban and Democratic Yemen delegations began yesterday afternoon at the Palace of the Revolution. The two sides were chaired by the top leaders of the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen [PDRY], 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, and of the Republic of Cuba, Commander in Chief Fidel Castro. Fidel expressed the satisfaction of the party, government and people of Cuba over having in our country the South Yemeni leader and his delegation. 'Ali Nasir Muhammad expressed his happiness over his visit and his gratitude for the warm welcome he received on his arrival in Havana.

During the talks, the two sides discussed the international political situation, especially in the Middle East, Latin America, the Caribbean and other areas of the world. They also took into account the aggravation of tensions caused by the policy of the U.S. administration and discussed details of the cooperation programs between the two countries.

Speech at Ceremony

FL181450 Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 0150 GMT 18 Feb 82

[Speech by People's Democratic Republic of Yemen Chairman 'Ali Nasir Muhammad at Havana's Cubanacan Hall after receiving the Jose Marti Order from Cuban President Fidel Castro; in Arabic with consecutive Spanish translation -- live]

[Text] Dear Comrade-in-Arms Fidel Castro, Dear Central Committee and Politburo members, Comrades in the Council of State and the Council of Ministers, Comrades present at this ceremony:

It is a great honor for me to receive the Jose Marti Order today from Comrade-in-Arms Fidel Castro, the highest decoration awarded by the Republic of Cuba. We appreciate the profound meaning of this noble award which bears the name of the intellectual author of the Cuban revolution, the inspiration for all social changes under way in the island of freedom, Cuba. This very noble decoration undoubtedly expresses the love, affection and admiration of the friendly Cuban people, their party and government led by our dear Comrade Fidel Castro for our revolutionary experience and our modest contribution to the international revolutionary movement, their admiration for our people and their struggle against U.S. imperialism. In this connection, I would like to praise their international support for our cause, our struggle. We will never forget their contribution.

I would like to reaffirm that this noble decoration conferred upon me today, which I accept in the name of the Yemeni Socialist Party and people, will increase our determination and desire to struggle for the just cause of our people in behalf of their union, their reunification and their future by the light of the lofty principles of scientific socialism and the international proletariat, to safeguard the national sovereignty of our people and achieve reunification and the triumph of socialism and peace.

Our people in Democratic Yemen greatly appreciate the high level of development that relations between Cuba and Democratic Yemen have attained.

Once again, comrades, I reiterate that there is a special place for revolutionary Cuba, its heroic party and its leader, dear Comrade Fidel Castro, in the heart of every combative Yemeni. I am not here to explain the steps we have taken on behalf of the consolidation of relations between our countries nor to explain the stages they have gone through.

Suffice to say that relations between our countries are typical relations and will continue to be typical relations worthy to be pursued, in addition to their being strategic relations, not only because of the similarity between our two revolutionary processes but because these relations have been cemented in the efforts of the two countries toward proletarian internationalism and assistance to friends all over the world.

Dear comrades, we shall not spare any effort to help and support the Cuban revolution -- with our own blood if necessary. We are infinitely convinced that Cuba will triumph in its struggle to safeguard its sovereignty and independence in face of imperialist and reactionary provocations. Cuba is not alone because the Soviet Union, the socialist countries, we, the revolutionaries of the Arab region, the revolutionaries of Africa and other countries -- all of us -- stand with Cuba and will remain so until victory.

On my behalf and on the behalf of the party, people and Government of Democratic Yemen, allow me to express my highest appreciation to the leadership of the Cuban Government and party, especially dear Comrade Fidel Castro, for awarding us this noble decoration which will remain, which will always be a symbol of the development of our relations and the intensification of our struggle for the achievement of the strategic objectives of our two revolutions, parties and countries and for all revolutionary movements in the world. Long live scientific socialism and proletarian internationalism. Glory to Cuban-Yemeni friendship. Thank you. [applause]

More Speeches

FL192131 Havana Domestic: Television Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 19 Feb 82

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro and 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, chairman of the Council of Ministers of the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen, spoke before a cultural event organized in honor of the visiting Yemeni delegation at the (Hendrick Whitbooi) basic secondary school on the Isle of Youth.

'Ali Nasir expressed his gratitude to revolutionary Cuba, its people, party and Fidel for having invited him to socialist Cuba. The purpose of this visit to Cuba, said the Yemeni leader, was to observe the great achievements of our country and the experiences of the revolution led by our Comrade Fidel Castro. 'Ali Nasir Muhammad stressed how pleased he felt for today's visit to what used to be the Modelo Prison on the Isle of Youth, which today is the museum of the revolution. He said that in the very short time he visited there, he was able to recognize that the Cuban revolutionaries and people were stronger than the Batista government and stronger than U.S. imperialism.

That experience teaches us, 'Ali Nasir added, that the peoples of Namibia, Western Sahara, El Salvador and all the rest, will triumph just like the heroic Cuban people and like the PDRY -- which has chosen the same road to freedom as revolutionary Cuba -- have triumphed. The Yemeni leader explained how the people of his country took up arms and were able to end the long British colonial domination. He also stressed that his country had chosen the same path as Cuba in its struggle to build socialism.

Regarding the visit this morning to the basic secondary school in the countryside for Namibian students, 'Ali Nasir Muhammad said that through today's cultural events he was able to recognize the determination of the Namibian people in their struggle against colonialism. 'Ali Nasir Muhammad said in closing that Democratic Yemen finds itself sharing a trench with Cuba in its fight against imperialism.

For his part, Commander in Chief Fidel Castro began by saying that the Yemeni's leader's remarks expressed all that he wanted to say. Fidel reiterated his gratitude to the Namibian, Mozambique, Nicaraguan, Ethiopian, and Cuban students for today's brilliantly executed cultural event. Fidel conveyed particular congratulations to the Namibian students for their educational achievements and called the school a model, pointing out that the school was the most visited of all on the Isle of Youth.

Fidel promised the island's Namibian students that he would continue to come by the school to review their successes and reiterated the Cuban people's solidarity with that African country's cause. The premier leader of the Cuban revolution expressed his deep satisfaction with the success of the Namibian students and urged them to prepare themselves for the future when their country would gain its independence and they would be able to take part in its development.

FIDEL CASTRO RECEIVES CANADIAN DELEGATION

FL181340 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1135 GMT 18 Feb 82

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, first secretary of the Communist Party of Cuba Central Committee and president of the Councils of State and Ministers, has received the delegation of the Canadian Ministry of Fisheries and Oceans headed by Mr G.B. Vernon, first deputy minister. During the meeting held in a cordial and friendly atmosphere, Comrade Fidel discussed the international fishery situation and cooperation between the two countries in this area. The meeting was attended by Flavio Bravo, president of the People's Government National Assembly, Antonio Esquivel, vice president of the Council of Ministers, and Jorge Fernandez Cuervo, fish industry minister. Also present was Canadian Ambassador to Cuba James Bartlemore.

TALKS WITH JAPAN END, TRADE AGREEMENT SIGNED

FL181730 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1640 GMT 18 Feb 82

[Text] The sixth joint conference ended with the signing of the final protocol covering the work of the conference by Ricardo Cabrizas, minister of foreign trade, and Mr Ryoichi Kawai, president of the Komatsu Ltd firm and president of the Cuba-Japan economic conference. In his closing remarks, Cabrizas referred to the Cuban-Japanese sugar trade, the trading of new funds transferable to the Japanese market or to third markets, as well as other financial matters.

Some 37 Japanese representatives led by Mr Kawai attended the last session of the conference at the Habana Riviera Hotel. The delegation visited the Ministry of Foreign Relations where it was received by Isidoro Malmierca, minister of foreign relations, and other officials.

RODRIGUEZ RECEIVES HUNGARY'S FERENC HAVASI

FL181440 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 18 Feb 82

[Text] Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, member of the Politburo and vice president of the Councils of State and Ministers, has received Ferenc Havasi, member of the Hungarian Socialist Workers Party Politburo, who is in our country heading a Hungarian party delegation. During the meeting they discussed topics of common interest regarding the economic development theories of socialism, economic questions concerning the two countries, and economic relations, both bilateral and multilateral within the framework of CEMA.

Delegation Ends Visit

FL191750 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1700 GMT 19 Feb 82

[Text] Ferenc Havasi, member of the Hungarian Socialist Workers Party Politburo and Secretariat, has ended his official visit to Cuba. Leonel Soto, member of the Communist Party of Cuba Central Committee Secretariat, bid farewell to Havasi and the delegation accompanying him at the international airport.

RODRIGUEZ WELCOMES GDR DEPUTY CHAIRMAN WEISS

FL191255 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 19 Feb 82

[Text] Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, member of the Politburo and vice president of the Councils of State and Ministers, welcomed yesterday at the Jose Marti Airport Gerhard Weiss, deputy chairman of the GDR Council of Ministers. Weiss traveled to Cuba at the head of a delegation which will participate in Havana in a meeting of the chairmen of the joint Cuba-GDR committee which begins today and will end on 26 February. In the meeting of the chairmen of the joint Cuba-GDR committee, the state of cooperation between the two countries in different areas will be reviewed. The delegation of the fraternal country will also visit several economic centers.

MEXICAN SPORTS DELEGATION ARRIVES FOR VISIT

FL200156 Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 20 Feb 82

[Text] A high-level sports delegation of the Mexican Republic arrived this afternoon at Jose Marti International Airport. The delegation is headed by Dr Manuel Mondragon, under secretary of sports of that country. The main objective of the visit is to sign a bilateral cooperation agreement between Mexico and Cuba in the sphere of sports.

Reinaldo Gonzalez, first vice president of the National Institute of Sports, Physical Education and Recreation, welcomed the delegation at the air terminal.

OFFICIAL SCORES DOCTRINE OF FREE ACCESS TO NEWS

FL190058 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 19 Feb 82

[Text] Today Cuba urged strengthening the international program for the development of communications and defending the principle of multilateral action through UNESCO for a new international information order. We cannot allow that the program for the development of communications be used by the transnationals to cover up their strategy of expansion and international control, the head of the Cuban delegation to the eighth meeting of the Committee for Cooperation Among Radio and Television Organizations, Reinaldo Infante, stated.

During the meeting, which is being held in Belgrade, Infante scored the so-called doctrine of free flow and free access to information which, he said, is a trick of the power international system and its free market operations.

It was announced that our country will host the ninth meeting of the Committee for Cooperation Among Radio and Television Organizations of Nonaligned Countries. The committee adopted an agreement on this subject during today's working session, which is meeting at the conference center in the Yugoslav capital. The delegation of Sri Lanka, the country which was scheduled to host the ninth meeting, explained its decision to decline hosting the event due to circumstances which would make difficult the preparations for the scheduled date. The proposal to have Cuba host it and our delegation's acceptance were welcomed with applause by those attending the session.